

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/701,266

Examiner

Jong-Suk (James) Lee

Applicant(s)

SCHLIG, DANIEL LOUIS

Art Unit

3673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to telephone interview on 9/21/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 09 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 09212004.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT/COMMENT

1. The corrected or substitute drawings were received on March 9, 2004. These drawings are formal and acceptable.
2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Charles E. Wands (Reg. No. 25,649) on September 21, 2004.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIM

Claim 1, line 4: "said buoy" has been changed to -- a buoy --.

Claim 1, line 13: "said mooring" has been changed to -- said mooring cable --.

Claim 3, line 2: "a respective gimbal ring" has been changed to -- each of said gimbal rings --.

Claim 10, line 4: "said buoy" has been changed to -- a buoy --.

Claim 10, line 23: "(b)" has been changed to -- (c) --.

Claim 11, lines 6-7: "said flexible sheath" has been changed to -- said flexible sheath structure --.

Claim 12, line 5: "said flexible sheath" has been changed to -- said flexible sheath structure --.

Claim 13, line 16: "a first pair" has been changed to -- said first pair --.

Claim 13, line 15: "aligned" has been changed to -- the aligned --.

Claim 16, line 4: "said buoy" has been changed to -- a buoy --.

Claim 17, line 2: "a respective gimbal ring" has been changed to -- each of said gimbal rings --.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to disclose or fairly suggest an apparatus and method for interfacing the transition of the marine communication cable within a communication buoy mooring cable to a cable connection fixture of a buoy, the arrangement comprising a segmented, flexible sheath formed of a plurality of pivotally interconnected gimbal rings each having interior apertures through which one or more communication link members pass and the link members being connectable to a communication cable connection fixture of the buoy with one end and connectable to a communication cable terminal connector of a terminal end of the mooring cable and as specifically called for the claimed combinations.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion


5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The references cited disclose a riser system for subsea wells and method of operations, an articulated underwater cable riser system and a pipe bend restrictor.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jong-Suk (James) Lee whose telephone number is (703) 308-6777. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 am to 3:00 pm, Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather C. Shackelford, can be reached on (703) 308-2978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

J. Lee /jjl
September 21, 2004


Jong-Suk (James) Lee
Primary Examiner
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